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First name: Griffin

Last name: Perry

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am strongly against the Telephone Gap project, as projects of this type (based in the 2006 Forest Plan) are based on antiquated 1980s forestry management science.

This project uses terms like "Forest vegetation improvements, Timber sales (green), Watershed improvements, & Species habitat improvements". Pretty words that make you feel good about the project. I mean, why wouldn't you want to protect our habitats, and maintain our roads!

While I too want our emergency access roads and trails maintained, projects based in the 2006 Forest Plan consider forests more as resources to be harvested, then the climate warriors we need to protect. Modern science & research in resilient forest management will refute these practices and the damage they cause to our forest ecosystems, habitats, and our climate through carbon release.

If this project goes ahead, many of the trees that will get logged in the proposed area are 80 to 160 years old or more, "Timber sales (Green)". These ~100 year old trees are hugely imperative carbon sequestration warriors. Logging older carbon storing trees in an area larger than the city of Burlington, seems counterproductive and tone deaf to the climate emergency we are in currently.

We should call this project what it really is - resource extraction from our national forests through logging.

Again, As an avid backpacker and hiker in our national forests, I too want our emergency access roads and trails maintained, and the forest habitats protected, as this project proposes part of its scope will accomplish. I also believe that we should source our lumber locally due to the carbon impact of imported lumber. However, we do not have to source from National Forests to provide our lumber needs in Vermont. Vermont's private forests can supply all of the timber we need while logging younger trees that have less of a carbon impact.

In our current climate, I believe that this project, and projects like it should be looked at or re-approached using modern, carbon conscious, resilient forest management science, so that we can maintain what is needed, without massively impacting our environment, and harming our forests.